

The other extensions

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About me

“Enterprise MediaWiki” developer, consultant and author, based in New York City.

My consulting company: WikiWorks

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Extensions to be covered

SMW-based: Semantic Forms, Semantic Forms Inputs, Semantic Result Formats, Semantic Maps, Semantic Compound Queries, Semantic Drilldown

Other: ParserFunctions, Confirm Edit, MobileFrontend, VisualEditor, Scribunto, Replace Text, Approved Revs, Admin Links, Maps, External Data, Data Transfer, Header Tabs, Widgets

Semantic Forms

An extension I created in 2007; have been working on it since.

Lets you define forms for creating and editing pages, and running search queries.

Probably has the most complex setup of any MediaWiki extension!

Semantic Forms – based around templates

(Almost) every form field corresponds to a template field/parameter.

There's also a “free text” input, and you can have inputs for page sections.

Semantic Forms – helper pages

- `Special:CreateForm`
- `Special:CreateTemplate`
- `Special:CreateCategory`
- `Special:CreateProperty` (if using SMW)
- `Special:CreateClass` – creates all of the above

Semantic Forms – defined input types

text, text with autocomplete, combobox, textarea, textarea with autocomplete, dropdown, radiobutton, tree, tokens, checkboxes, listbox, checkbox, date, datetime, year, googlemaps, openlayers

Semantic Forms – defining a list of values

- Not forms-related, but done by Semantic Forms.
- Two parser functions: `#arraymap`, `#arraymaptemplate`
- Sample call:

```
{ { #arraymap : { { { Hobbies } } } | , | x | [ [ Has  
hobby : : x ] ] } }
```


Semantic Forms Inputs

Defines additional input types:

- datepicker, datetimepicker (Javascript-based)
- regexp (allows custom validation)
- menuselect
- two infoboxes

Demo time!

Please go to:

<http://smwconbarcelona.referata.com>

Semantic Result Formats

Defines many additional result formats for SMW queries:

Calendars, timelines, charts, graphs, etc.

Semantic Maps

Defines:

Map-based result formats: googlemaps, openlayers

Map-based form inputs: googlemaps, openlayers

Semantic Compound Queries

Can display multiple Semantic MediaWiki queries at the same time.

In practice, this is mostly useful for maps and calendars – especially maps.

Semantic Drilldown

Provides a drill-down interface for SMW data.

Sample declaration, in a category page:

```
{ {#drilldowninfo:filters=Author  
  (property=Has author),  
  Date (property=Has date),  
  Genre (property=Has genre)  
} }
```

ParserFunctions

Defines many parser functions, some of them very useful:

- #if, #switch
- String functions: #pos, #explode

Confirm Edit

Presents “CAPTCHA” tests to keep out spammers.

Recommended: “QuestyCaptcha” module – lets you define questions and answers.

MobileFrontend

An easy way to get a mobile-friendly display.

Used by Wikipedia.

The other option for mobile support: switch to a “responsive” skin (like Chameleon), that works well on every screen width.

VisualEditor

A WYSIWYG editor for MediaWiki.

Projected started in 2011 – it finally works pretty well!

Scribunto

Lets you create “module” pages, in the scripting language Lua, that do text-processing and other cool stuff.

- Avoids the overuse of parser functions

Replace Text

Global text search-and-replace.

This is useful in a variety of contexts, but especially in modifying template field names and property values, because these have to be exact.

Approved Revs

Lets administrators mark a certain revision of a page as approved – people can edit the page, but their edits won't show up until a later revision is approved.

A “nicer” way of protecting pages.

See also: FlaggedRevs extension, which is more complex.

Admin Links

Creates a page of helpful links for administrators, linked to from the top of each page.

Maps

Displays (non-semantic) maps.

External Data

Can query the information from an outside source, and display it on a wiki page.

Allowed sources:

- URL (in many data formats)
- Database
- local file
- LDAP server

External Data – sample call

```
{{#get_web_data:  
url=http://example.com/employee-data.csv  
|format=csv with headers  
|data=name=EmployeeName,  
dept=EmployeeDepartment  
}}
```

```
{{#for_external_table:  
* {{{name}}} (Department: {{{dept}}})  
}}
```

Data Transfer

Allows for importing and exporting structured data, using template calls to hold individual fields.

Most common usage: importing CSV files – each row in the CSV is saved to a separate page.

Header Tabs

Splits a page into tabs – can be used for both regular pages and forms.

Widgets

Enables adding pre-set bits of HTML and Javascript to pages, to enable video players, audio players and many others.

Eliminates the need for many 10-line MediaWiki extensions.

Different from Scribunto – outputs HTML, not wikitext.